Storypoint Problem Exploration - duracloud

September 4, 2024

1 Storypoint Prediction: Problem Exploration

1.1 Problem Statement

In modern agile development settings, software is developed through repeated cycles (iterative) and in smaller parts at a time (incremental), allowing for adaptation to changing requirements at any point during a project's life. A project has a number of iterations (e.g. sprints in Scrum). Each iteration requires the completion of a number of user stories, which are a common way for agile teams to express user requirements.

There is thus a need to focus on estimating the effort of completing a single user story at a time rather than the entire project. In fact, it has now become a common practice for agile teams to go through each user story and estimate its "size". Story points are commonly used as a unit of measure for specifying the overall size of a user story.

1.2 Problem Formulation

Input: A string of length N that contains a story's name and description $C = \{c_1, c_2, c_3, ..., c_n\}$. For each story, a set of text embeddings that contains features $E = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, ..., e_m\}$ extracted from C has been provided.

Output: A natural number P associated with the story point of that user story

1.3 Dataset Information

Text Embeddings: Text embeddings are a way to convert words or phrases from text into a list of numbers, where each number captures a part of the text's meaning. The dataset has been preprocessed and converted into two kinds of text embeddings. You can choose to work with either of them or both: - Doc2Vec: Input strings are transformed into fixed-length vectors of size 128. These vectors capture the semantic meaning of words and their relationships within a document. - Look-upTable: Input strings are transformed into fixed-length vectors of size 2264. These vectors are obtained via transforming each word in the input strings into an identifier number, then padded to the length of the longest sample.

Dataset Structure & Format: Storypoint Estimation Dataset is stored in 3 folders labeled *raw data*, *look-up*, and *doc2vec*. Within each folder are 3 CSV files for training, testing, validation. Each csv file has the following columns: - `issuekey` : The unique identifier for a story. - `storypoint`: The correct number of storypoint. - An embedding column (`embedding` or `doc2vec`) contains text embedding vectors. The raw data csv will not have this and instead contain two columns with story `name` and `description`.

1.4 Exploration

1.4.1 Raw data exploration

[ ]:
```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns

from sklearn.feature_extraction.text import CountVectorizer
```

Output exploration

[ ]:
```
# Import raw data from the CSV file

project_name = 'duracloud'

all_data = pd.concat([pd.read_csv('data/' + project_name + '/' + project_name +␣
 ↪'_train.csv'),
                      pd.read_csv('data/' + project_name + '/' + project_name +␣
 ↪'_valid.csv'),
                      pd.read_csv('data/' + project_name + '/' + project_name +␣
 ↪'_test.csv')])

print('Check the shape of the dataset', all_data.shape)
```

```
Check the shape of the dataset (613, 4)
```

[ ]:
```
all_data.drop(['issuekey'], axis=1, inplace=True)
all_data.head()
```

[ ]:
```
                                           title  \
0                       document logging framework
1   allow simple updating project version numbers
2                    jpegk image conversion service
3                        jpegk image server service
4                        jpegk image viewer service

                                          description  storypoint
0  storeclient whenever used creates directory se…           1
1  easysimple update version number parts baselin…           3
2  service wrapper service perform conversion ima…           8
3         service wrapper service serve jpegk images           5
4       service wrapper service display jpegk images           3
```

First, let take a look at the distribution of the story point:

Interpretation of Skewness Values:

- **Skewness** > 0: Right-skewed distribution.
- **Skewness** < 0: Left-skewed distribution.

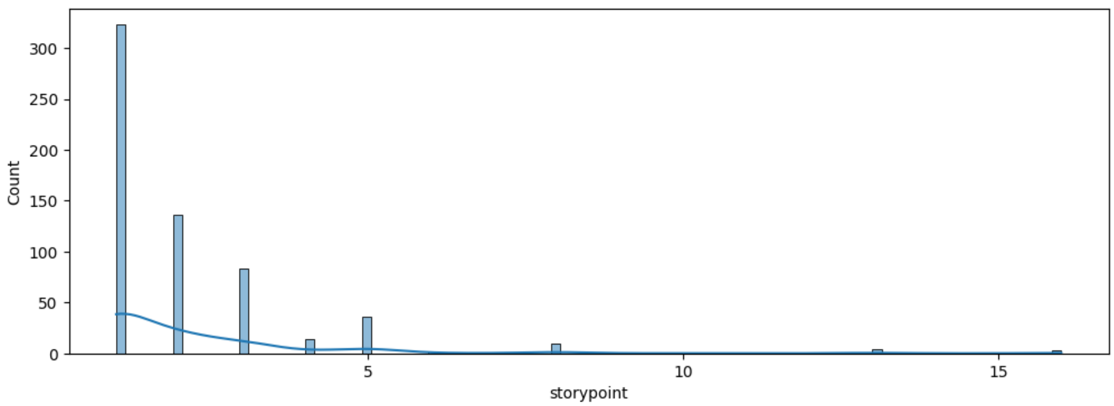
- **Skewness = 0**: Symmetrical distribution (like a normal distribution).

Interpretaion of kurtosis: - **Leptokurtic (Kurtosis > 3)**: The distribution has heavier tails and a sharper peak than the normal distribution. Data points are more likely to produce extreme values. The distribution has a higher peak and fatter tails. - **Platykurtic (Kurtosis < 3)**: The distribution has lighter tails and a flatter peak than the normal distribution. Data are fewer extreme values compared to a normal distribution. - **Mesokurtic (Kurtosis 3)**: The distribution has a similar kurtosis to the normal distribution, indicating a moderate level of outliers.

[ ]:
```
# Draw a histogram of the story points
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 4))
plt.xticks(np.arange(0, max(all_data['storypoint']) + 1, 5))
sns.histplot(all_data['storypoint'], bins=100, kde=True)

print('Skewness:', all_data['storypoint'].skew())
print('Kurtosis:', all_data['storypoint'].kurt())
```

```
Skewness: 3.658464007504997
Kurtosis: 18.40649020776751
```



[ ]:
```
tmp = pd.concat([all_data['storypoint'].value_counts(),
                 all_data['storypoint'].value_counts() / all_data.shape[0] *
 ↪100],
                axis=1, keys=['Counts', 'Percentage (%)'])
tmp.head(20)
```

[ ]:

storypoint	Counts	Percentage (%)
1	323	52.691680
2	136	22.185971
3	83	13.539967
5	36	5.872757
4	14	2.283850
8	10	1.631321

13	4	0.652529
16	3	0.489396
6	2	0.326264
7	1	0.163132
10	1	0.163132

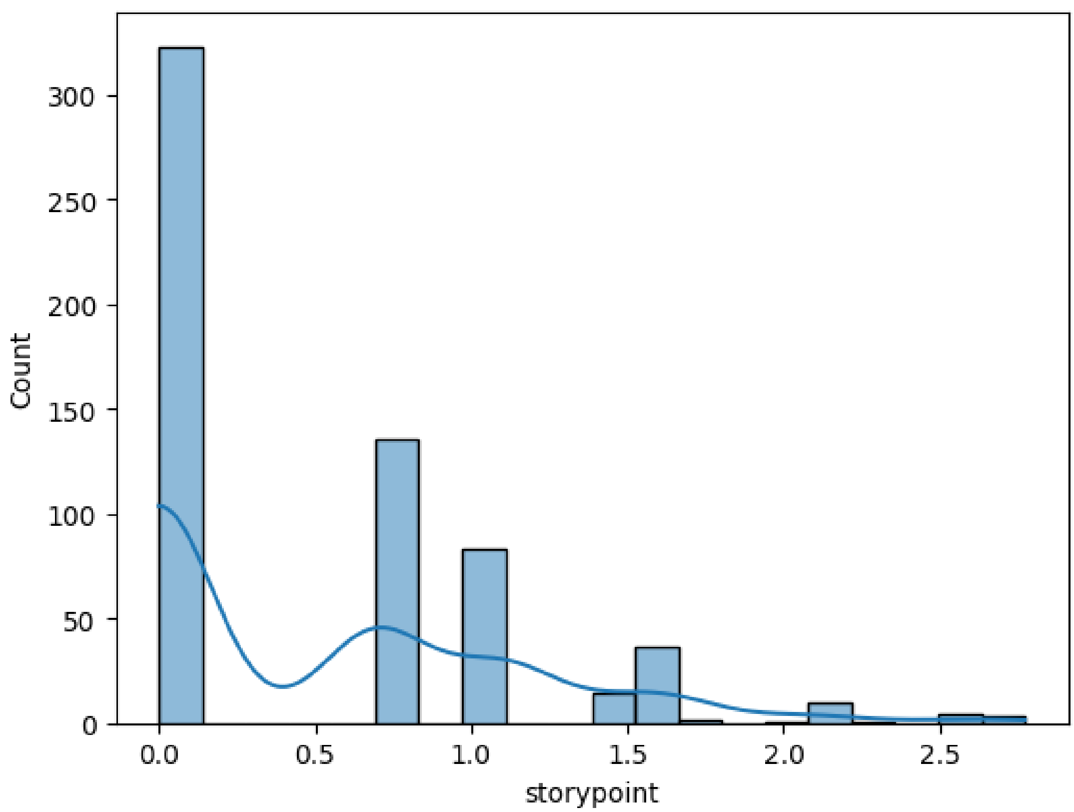
At the first sight, this data is bad. Then take a look at the statistic values, this data is even worse. Its distribution of the label is **right-skewed** and **leptokurtis**. This means if we use this to train model, the right side of the data can be the outliers and make the models become unsuable.

I will try 2 solutions: - Use log-scale on the label - Remove all the examples with label greater than a threshold (20, 30 or 40)

The first solution: logarithm magic

[ ]:
```
sns.histplot(np.log(all_data['storypoint']), bins=20, kde=True)
```

[ ]: <Axes: xlabel='storypoint', ylabel='Count'>



[ ]:
```
print('Skewness:', np.log(all_data['storypoint']).skew())
print('Kurtosis:', np.log(all_data['storypoint']).kurt())
```

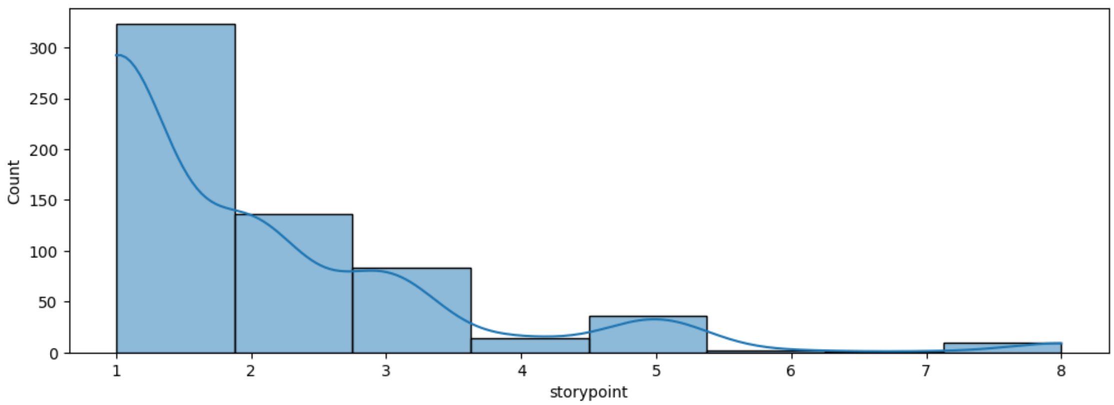
```
Skewness: 1.0628791802290758
Kurtosis: 0.5721847412030625
```

The second solution: Dismantle and Cleave

```
[ ]: threshold = 8 # This threshold means that we will take all the examples with␣
     ↪story points less than or equal to 20

     new_data = all_data[all_data['storypoint'] <= threshold]
     plt.figure(figsize=(12, 4))
     plt.xticks(np.arange(0, max(new_data['storypoint']) + 1, 1))
     sns.histplot(new_data['storypoint'], bins=threshold, kde=True)
     print('Fitered percentage: ', round(1 - new_data.shape[0] / all_data.shape[0],␣
     ↪2) * 100, '%')
```

```
Fitered percentage:  1.0 %
```



Input exploration The input of this problem is 2 texts: title and description. First we will find some statistics:

```
[ ]: title_lengths = all_data['title'].apply(lambda x: len(x.split(' ')))
     print('Title analysis:')
     print('   - Mean length:', round(title_lengths.mean()))
     print('   - Min length:', title_lengths.min())
     print('   - Max length:', title_lengths.max())

     description_lengths = all_data['description'].apply(lambda x: len(x.split(' '))␣
     ↪if type(x) != float else 0)
     print('Description analysis:')
     print('   - Mean length:', round(description_lengths.mean()))
     print('   - Min length:', description_lengths.min())
     print('   - Max length:', description_lengths.max())
```

```
Title analysis:
   - Mean length: 5
   - Min length: 1
   - Max length: 17
Description analysis:
   - Mean length: 32
   - Min length: 0
   - Max length: 324
```

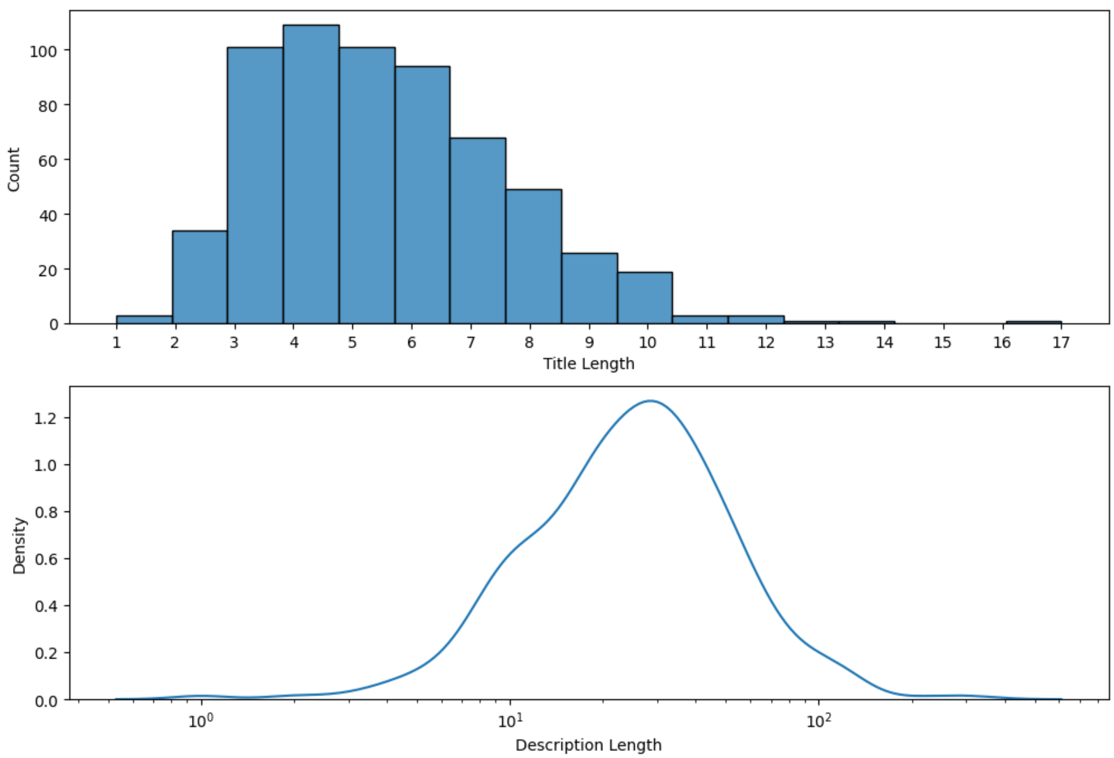
Plot the histogram of the title length and KDE of the description length (exclude 0):

[ ]:
```python
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 8))

plt.subplot(2, 1, 1)
plt.xticks(np.arange(0, max(title_lengths) + 1, 1))
plt.xlabel('Title Length')
sns.histplot(title_lengths, bins=max(title_lengths))

plt.subplot(2, 1, 2)
plt.xlabel('Description Length')
plt.xscale('log')
sns.kdeplot(description_lengths[description_lengths > 0])
```

[ ]:
```
<Axes: xlabel='Description Length', ylabel='Density'>
```



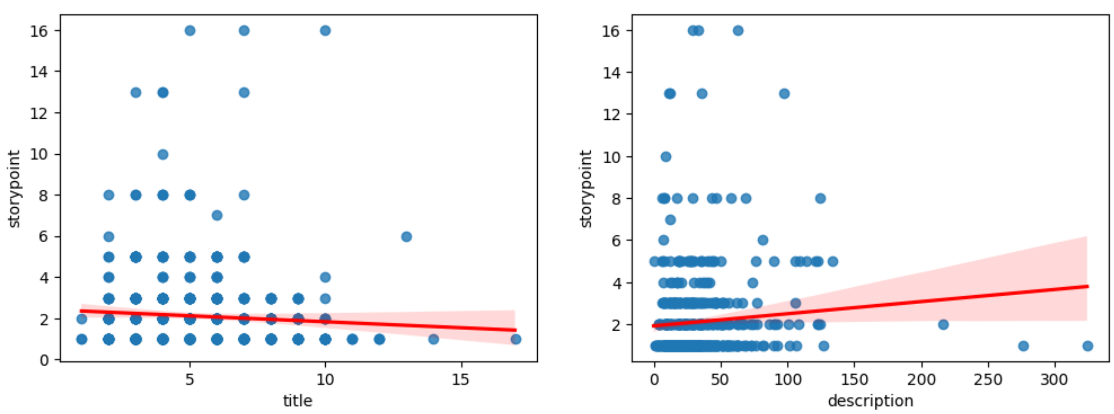
I think we should check the correlation between title length and description length:

[ ]:
```
plt.figure(figsize=(12, 4))

plt.subplot(1, 2, 1)
plt.xticks(np.arange(0, max(all_data['title'].apply(lambda x: len(x.split('␣
↪')))) + 1, 5))
sns.regplot(x=all_data['title'].apply(lambda x : len(x.split(' '))),
            y=all_data['storypoint'],
            line_kws={'color': 'red'})

plt.subplot(1, 2, 2)
sns.regplot(x=all_data['description'].apply(lambda x : len(x.split(' ')) if␣
↪type(x) != float else 0),
            y=all_data['storypoint'],
            line_kws={'color': 'red'})
```

[ ]: <Axes: xlabel='description', ylabel='storypoint'>



We can see slight correlation between title, description with storypoint. (down with title and up with description)

Let dive deeper in the input:

Title analysis:

[ ]:
```
count_vectorizer = CountVectorizer()
count_vectorizer.fit(all_data['title'])

dictionary = pd.DataFrame(list(count_vectorizer.vocabulary_.items()),␣
↪columns=['word', 'frequency'])
dictionary.sort_values(by='frequency', ascending=False, inplace=True)
print(dictionary.shape)
dictionary.head(10)
```

```
(1122, 2)
```

```
[ ]:                word  frequency
807          zoomable       1121
908               zip       1120
531      xmlreturning       1119
157               xml       1118
631             xhtml       1117
694   xduracloudadmin       1116
323             wrong       1115
207            writes       1114
136             write       1113
843              wrap       1112
```

Description analysis:

```
[ ]: count_vectorizer = CountVectorizer()
count_vectorizer.fit(all_data[all_data['description'].isnull() ==
 ↪False]['description'])

dictionary = pd.DataFrame(list(count_vectorizer.vocabulary_.items()),
 ↪columns=['word', 'frequency'])
dictionary.sort_values(by='frequency', ascending=False, inplace=True)
print(dictionary.shape)
dictionary.head(20)
```

```
(3442, 2)
```

```
[ ]:                  word  frequency
2560           zoomable       3441
390                 zip       3440
1953               zero       3439
1329              youll       3438
1247                yet       3437
2821               year       3436
2648              yaxis       3435
2645              yaxes       3434
2161     xxmaxpermsizem       3433
2059            xstream       3432
1088               xslt       3431
1487        xservicework       3430
1485         xserviceout       3429
2160               xmxm       3428
600                 xml       3427
1340             xlarge       3426
2151              xhtml       3425
1198        xdurametaext       3424
1197           xdurameta       3423
```

```
2688  xduracloudadminlogo       3422
```

Yet I don't find any thing special about the words in input except so many things are bad.

1.4.2 Solving strategies

My first intuitation in this problem is that the hard part is not on the algorithm we use, it is on the **embedding** part. Therefore, in case the given embedded datasets work not properly, I will use a better embedding method which is **Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers (BERT)**. Also, I will try an old way to embedding the text too: **Bag of words**.

In conclusion, I will have 4 ways to embed the text: - doc2vec (already available) - Look up (already available) - Bag Of Words - BERT

About algorithm, I will try all the regression algorithm that may give a good result:

- Ridge Regressor
- Support Vector Regressor
- Random Forest Regressor
- Gradient Boosting
- XGBoost
- Lightgbm
- Blended

Maybe, we can change the problem to the classification problem with 100 labels (desparation confirmed). In the classification problem, I will use: - Support Vector Classifier - Softmax Regression (Multinomial Logistic Regression) - Random Forest - Adaboost - XGBoost

Thanks to the libaries, the implementation of all the algorithm shrinks to its minimum form.

At last, there is still a situation that all of mentioned model don't give a good result. This gamble is thrilling (hopeless).

"But would you lose?"

Nah, I'd win.